

IN HONOR OF CENTRACARE LABORATORY SERVICES OF ST. CLOUD, MINNESOTA

HON. MICHELE BACHMANN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 27, 2009

Mrs. BACHMANN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor CentraCare Laboratory Services in St. Cloud, Minnesota as the second runner up for the Medical Laboratory Observer's Medical Laboratory of the Year Award. Laboratories across the nation were judged on achievement in nine areas with the winners and two runners up, including CentraCare, being featured in the Medical Laboratory Observer, a peer-reviewed journal resource that has been used by laboratory professionals since 1969.

Today's medical care relies heavily on laboratory services that provide fast and high-quality answers to doctors. CentraCare has demonstrated excellence in many ways. They achieved standardization of the equipment in all their labs to eliminate confusion by physicians ordering tests from different labs. They also implemented new labeling guidelines to ensure patient safety and have reduced specimen collection errors to practically zero through an automated pneumatic collection system. These improvements were also acknowledged by the Quality Resources Patient Safety Committee of St. Cloud Hospital.

When it comes to healthcare and the medical community, CentraCare Laboratory Services has been a beacon for quality and patient safety. They are a great resource not only for their patients, but for other laboratories that can learn from their example.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate all of CentraCare's employees for their attention to efficiency and high standards of excellence that has resulted in this prestigious accomplishment.

TRIBUTE TO THE BATTLE OF LEXINGTON STATE HISTORIC SITE

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 27, 2009

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, let me take this moment to recognize the Battle of Lexington State Historic Site, as they celebrate their 50th anniversary. For 50 years this state park has captured and commemorated a pivotal battle of the Civil War in the city of Lexington, which I proudly represent.

On January 1, 1959, the site was donated to the State of Missouri to be designated as a state historic park. Received in a preserved and quality condition, the State Park has since provided visitors with information, reenactments, and guided tours to this historic site. In 1991, the visitor center was completed and opened for the public. In 2000, a monument was established which tells the Confederate's side of the story. Later this year, a second monument will be put up to tell the Union side of the story.

The Battle of Lexington State Historic Site teaches visitors how Missouri played an important strategic role in the Civil War. Not

quite in the south, yet a slave state nonetheless, Missourians were sharply divided over what side of the conflict their state should enter. In addition, its position along the Missouri and Mississippi Rivers was critical to controlling the West, and as a result, many battles erupted between Confederate sympathizers and Unionists.

Though Missouri eventually cast its lot with the Union, by September 1861, it could have gone either way. It was then that Union Colonel J.A. Mulligan found himself and his troops surrounded by General Sterling Price, leader of the Confederate Missouri State Guard. Price had just led his troops to victory at Wilson's creek the previous month, and was looking to expand on his success with the capture of Lexington, a small but strategic town located near the Missouri River. Capturing the town would allow Confederate recruits from Northern Missouri to cross over the river.

Though the battle of Lexington was one of the longest, most fiercely contested engagements in Missouri during the Civil War, the casualties were surprisingly light. The Union lost only 40 dead and 120 wounded; the State Guard lost only 25 dead and 72 wounded. In addition, Price's triumph was short-lived. Shortly after the defeat at Lexington, General John C. Fremont, the Union commander in Missouri, organized a large force with the purpose of driving out Price's State Guard. Faced with this threat, Price retreated back to Southwest Missouri, and the Missouri River was returned to Union control.

Madam Speaker, the Battle of Lexington State Historic Site has been an important landmark in this country. I know the members of the House will join me in recognizing the site on its 50 years of success and in expressing hope that it will continue to provide a quality experience to the thousands of visitors who come every year.

TRIBUTE TO NATALIE WEAVER

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 27, 2009

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstandingly gifted student from my district, Natalie Weaver of Madison, Connecticut. On March 10, 2009, Natalie was named champion of Connecticut's fourth annual Poetry Out Loud competition held at the Carol Autorino Center in West Hartford, Connecticut. On April 28, she will represent Connecticut in the national finals held in Washington, DC.

Poetry Out Loud is a national program that encourages high school students to engage in the written and spoken word through memorization and performance of modern and classic poetry. As part of the program in Connecticut, the Connecticut Commission on Culture and Tourism (CCT) assisted participating teachers with professional development and placed teaching artists in participating schools. The CCT also established an all-day workshop for champions, first runner-ups, and their teachers. In Connecticut, the state competition was hosted by the CCT and the State Department of Education, in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) and the Poetry Foundation.

This year, more than 3,800 students participated in the program in Connecticut, which began with competitions at the classroom level and progressed to school-wide competitions, and eventually the state finals. In the state finals, Natalie beat 15 other contestants to win the state champion title. State finalists recited poems selected from an anthology that included over 400 classic and modern works. On April 28, she will compete against other state finalists in the national competition, which will award over \$50,000 in the form of scholarships and school stipends.

Madam Speaker, poetry has long been an essential component of the human expression, serving as an accessible venue to explore and preserve universal themes such as love, beauty, nature, tragedy, and mortality. I commend the efforts of Poetry Out Loud program with engaging students in poetry and applaud Natalie on her big win. I ask my colleagues to join with me and my constituents in recognizing these contributions and cheering Natalie on in the national Poetry Out Loud competition.

COMMENDING RICHARDSON PARKS AND RECREATION FOR 50 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 27, 2009

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, the Richardson area was first settled in the 1840s and 1850s as the pioneer community called Breckinridge. The town of Richardson was founded in 1873 next to the Houston & Texas Central Railway tracks, was named for the railroad contractor E. H. Richardson, and became a thriving community of farms, stores, cotton gins and churches. Richardson remained a sleepy farming community until the 1950s.

With the arrival of Collins Radio and Texas Instruments, Richardson became a popular location for college-educated professionals. Known as the "Electronic City" and later the "Telecom Corridor", Richardson continues to grow and prosper, with many diverse cultures, faiths and populations adding to its vibrant mix of high-tech business and educational opportunities.

In Richardson's rich history, citizens have enjoyed the finest offerings a community can have with exemplary schools, first class parks, excellent library, sophisticated transportation, all managed by a well run local government. Many people who lived in Richardson chose this community because of its quality of life.

In 2009, Richardson proudly celebrates 50 years of Parks and Recreation Services that has served its citizenry with the finest of trails, parks, festivals, recreation programs, senior citizen activities, and tourist attractions all wrapped in a well manicured city. During its 50 years the Richardson Parks and Recreation Department has provided families greater quality of life through first class programs that have become a tradition, and a source of pride within the community.

This is evidenced by greater real estate values and first class economic development proving that Richardson is not only a great host to a business and industry, but a great place to call home.

Congratulations are in order as Richardson Parks and Recreation marks 50 years of service to the community.

GREEN ENERGY EDUCATION ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. DAVID WU

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2009

Mr. WU. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 957, the Green Energy Education Act of 2009.

This bill authorizes the Department of Energy to partner with the National Science Foundation to help universities to develop the next generation of engineers and architects. These students will be trained to work effectively together to produce buildings that incorporate the latest in energy efficient technologies.

Especially in this economy, we need to train our workforce in the latest, most relevant technologies in the green energy job sector in order to help us realize many of our energy policy goals.

In the 110th Congress, I was able to add a provision to the Energy Independence and Security Act that allows colleges and university to research woody biomass, a new form of alternative fuel that shows promise in meeting our energy needs.

We should also continue to support legislation that takes advantage of the growing opportunities to educate and train our college and university students to develop new technologies and find jobs in the green energy economy.

Along with my place on the House Science and Technology Committee, I am also a member of the Education and Labor Committee, and co-chair of the Congressional Community College Caucus. I know that good sustainability practices are a vital component of the effort to move toward a clean, energy independent future. Because community colleges and universities are often at the forefront of this movement, they are a natural place to focus such efforts.

By training students in the latest technologies, we are helping guarantee that companies will have the educated workforce necessary to grow and prosper in coming decades.

I am happy to support this bill, and I am committed to continuing to advocate for policy, partnerships, and projects that will keep universities and community colleges at the forefront of our nation's burgeoning green energy economy.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 2009

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I want to clearly explain the sources of the data I have

used to compare the strength of the economy during President Clinton's time in office as compared to the economy during the Bush administration. During the Bush administration, an average of 2,000 private sector jobs were created per month. For purposes of comparison, 217,000 private sector jobs were created per month under President Clinton. These statistics are drawn from Bureau of Labor Statistics data. To provide further evidence for the relative success of Presidents Clinton and Bush, it is helpful to look at economic growth during their Presidencies. President Clinton created \$1.68 in economic growth for every dollar of economic growth created under the Bush administration. These numbers are taken directly from research by the Bureau of Economic Analysis. Finally, and perhaps most convincing, is the stark difference between the change in purchasing power, for the median household, between the Clinton and the Bush years. Under President Bush, the median household had \$500 less purchasing power as of 2007 as compared to the beginning of Bush's Presidency. Under President Clinton the purchasing power of the median household rose by over \$5,000. These numbers were drawn from data compiled by the Bureau of the Census and the Bureau of Labor Statistics. My friends on the other side of the aisle may prefer to ignore these comparisons; however, I am of the opinion that we must learn from our past to better prepare for the future. As we work to create jobs and get the economy back on track, it is useful to keep in mind the lessons of the past two decades.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF RON TUPPER FOR HIS CONTINUOUS WORK IN THE FIELD OF HEALTH CARE IN THE BORDER REGIONS OF TEXAS

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 27, 2009

Mr. CUELLAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ron Tupper for his 25 years of service to the health care field through his work in health care development and consultation, health education, and hospital and clinic management. He has done so much over the years for the border region and he truly deserves to be recognized today.

Mr. Tupper holds a master's of science degree in health management and health education from Texas State University, as well as a bachelor's degree from the University of Nebraska. He also served our country proudly for 7 years as a U.S. Air Force Medical Serviceman until he was honorably discharged in 1970.

Ron Tupper has been instrumental over the years to bringing quality health services to citizens in the border regions of Texas. He started in 1974 with his first assignment on the Texas-Mexico border and soon afterwards he was elected one of the youngest CEOs to serve an accredited rural hospital in Texas. Later he would help secure a marketing plan and matching funds to develop a rural public health academic training program on the border.

At the University of Texas Health Science Center, Mr. Tupper was responsible for coordi-

nating medical education opportunities in the Lower Rio Grande Valley. Over the past few years he has worked with the city of McAllen and the clinic board to secure a site for the community clinic which treats 130 working poverty stricken Hidalgo County residents daily. The facility, which started out as a 3-examination-room clinic, is now a 25,000 square foot facility that operates with 48 examination rooms.

Madam Speaker, please join me in honoring Ron Tupper for his dedicated service to the field of health care in the State of Texas. He has committed so much through the years to advance his cause and I am honored to have the privilege of recognizing him today.

HONORING BARACK OBAMA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 27, 2009

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the students, faculty and staff of the Barack Obama Elementary School for the official renaming of the former Ludlum Elementary School. I am pleased to see that the first school in the Nation to bear the name of our 44th President is in my Congressional District.

The Nation faces a monumental moment in history with the election of our country's first African-American President. At the request of the students and to honor this milestone, on November 20, 2008, Ludlum Elementary School was officially renamed Barack Obama Elementary School. I commend the students for their foresight to honor an historic achievement.

As a member of the House Committee on Education and Labor, I have the great privilege of learning about schools both locally and nationally. The future of this country depends on the hopes and dreams of its children. I look forward to working with the students and faculty as the Barack Obama Elementary School enters this new part of its history.

Madam Speaker, it is with pride and admiration I offer my best wishes and recognition to Barack Obama Elementary School.

HAMAS'S BLOODY HANDS

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 27, 2009

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, from time-to-time Members insert into this RECORD articles which are of particular relevance to current policy debates, and we often add a commentary. Today I do not add any words because this compelling, insightful column by Richard Cohen on the will- ingness of far too many in the world to give a pass to Hamas while being harshly critical of Israel needs no gloss.

Madam Speaker, I add only that I am in very strong agreement with virtually everything Mr. Cohen has to say in this piece and I hope it will be read and reflected upon.